DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mental Health Update

August 18, 2006

FUTURES PROJECT

Conceptual CON Application Filed

The Department of Health filed an application for a Conceptual Certificate of Need for the Vermont State Hospital Futures project this Tuesday. This application officially creates a record with the Banking, Insurance, Securities, and Health Care Administration (BISHCA) regarding:

- The Futures Planning process to date
- Policy considerations
- Options considered for inpatient program development
- Need to replace the VSH
- Consistency with CON criteria related to the Health Resource Allocation Plan, the State Health Plan, and the Blueprint for Chronic Care.

The next phase of the process will be the question and answer period, followed by a hearing of the Public Oversight Commission. Norma Wasko, of the VDH Futures team led the development of this application. The application is posted on the VDH website.

Process for Disseminating Developing Futures Cost Estimates

We continue to make good progress on the Futures project. As we begin to understand the preliminary capital and operating cost models, there will be several draft estimates from multiple perspectives developed and considered. In addition, the analyses and estimates will evolve over time as the programmatic operations; site and design plans become more specific and detailed.

We are interested in sharing the information we receive, as the project will be best served if developing information is considered. However, for clarity it is important to establish a method to identify financial analysis and/or cost estimates *that reflect the consensus of key parties.*

Secretary LaWare has identified the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Agency of Human Services (AHS) as the single source for operations and construction cost estimates that represent such consensus. Cost estimates released by other groups will be considered preliminary and not fully vetted.

Futures Advisory Committee Meeting

The minutes from the August 7, 2006, Futures Advisory Committee are posted on the Website. The meeting was well attended in spite of summer vacation season.

Second Meeting of the Burlington Site Review Work Group

The second meeting of the Burlington Site Review Work group is scheduled for August 22, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Memorial Lounge of the Waterman Building at the University of Vermont. The group will begin looking at different site options with the previously discussed list of considerations in mind.

Housing Work Group

The housing work group also meets on Tuesday, August 22 at 2:00 p.m. in Montpelier in the 4th Floor conference room of the Pavilion State Office Building.   The group will review preliminary information on the housing status of VSH patients before and after their admission to the hospital.

Community Residential Recovery Work Group

The community residential recovery work group meets at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 23 in Waterbury at 2 Moody Court. As the Second Spring community residential recovery program moves towards implementation, this work group will discuss shifting its focus to other aspects of the Futures Plan.

Crisis Bed Work Group

The crisis bed work group will convene this Wednesday, August 23 at the Alternatives crisis stabilization program in Bellows Falls at 1:00 p.m. In order to better develop a recommendation about the potential program characteristics and geographic location of new crisis beds, this work group has been systematically visiting Vermont's current adult mental health crisis residential programs.

Care Management Work Group

The care management work group is scheduled to meet on Friday, August 25 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex. This group will hear reports on protocol development and have a focused discussion on admission criteria to hospital-level care.

VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL CENSUS

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 50 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 49.6.